



**Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 16 March 2020**

- ❖ The Manor is increasing their emergency kits and supplies according to CDC guidance regarding COVID-19.
- ❖ Jessica Ieremia is leaving her position as the library's Program Coordinator on April 1. She has done a stellar job of at the library and we will miss her. She will be taking a position as the director of the Sitka Public Library. Kari Petersen has been hired as our new Program Coordinator.
- ❖ The library has received a Community Development Grant (\$3000) from First Bank for our summer reading program. This is the eleventh year that First Bank has been a major sponsor of our summer program, we are very appreciative of their support.
- ❖ Upcoming maintenance projects include replacing our propane fireplace with an electric fireplace and replacing the tile around the fixtures in the men's washroom.
- ❖ In reference to the 2019 periodic safety inspection (PSI) at Cabin Creek Dam and a teleconference with PND Engineers, a plan for additional investigation into suspected voids around the low-level outlet pipes has been finalized. Staff will perform inspections in the spring to further document earlier findings that there are no voids around the pipe joints as previously suspected by the inspection engineer.
- ❖ The water department recently received the 2018 quality award for fluoride addition from the State of Alaska. The award recognizes the water staff's efforts in meeting all fluoride regulations in calendar year 2018.
- ❖ Rock N Road Construction is planning to start work on the Scow Bay Pump station 1 Upgrades project in June, and Reid Brothers Construction is planning to start work on the Kisenno Street gravity sewer replacement in May.
- ❖ SEAPA engineers should have information on replacement of the marine cable at the March 30 & 31 Board meeting in Wrangell. A clear recommendation as to the best path forward and likely costs are forthcoming.
- ❖ PMPL line crew will begin work on an in-house project to re-feed the main street substation. This project is borne by the need to replace two rotten poles that currently support the overhead line across Hammer Slough.
- ❖ PMPL recently gave notice to isolated neighborhoods for short outages to enable the line crew to shift electrical loads and better balance our distribution system. The work was a success with a much better balance between phases now in place systemwide. As a reminder, any customer with power quality issues is encouraged to call PMPL at 772-4203 so that it can be investigated.
- ❖ Assessment notices went out at the end of February. Property owners have a month to appeal. Appeal forms can be found in the finance department or on the Borough's website.
- ❖ Finance Director Tow is beginning the process of a 2010 GO Bond Refunding. Bond Council has been secured and a resolution will probably come before the assembly at the next assembly meeting.

- ❖ Budgets are due today (March 16th) into the Borough Manager/Finance Director. The next step is for the manager to meet with department heads to review their budgets and put together a draft proposed budget for the Assembly to review.
- ❖ Reminder that the State Assessor will be here on March 18th to conduct a work session for the Borough Assembly from 4pm to 6pm. This work session will be to review the audit his office conducted on the Borough's property tax records and or property tax ordinance. He will also do an overview on conducting a Board of Equalization that the assembly will hold on April 6th if there are any unsettled property tax appeals.
- ❖ Our Police Department assisted United States Postal Inspector with the post office investigation and search warrants.
- ❖ Police Officers have been testing body cameras, which came in handy on a recent citizen complaint. After review of the video it was proved the Officers were professional and accommodating towards the subject. The Complainant was offered a chance to review the video but has not shown up for the review.
- ❖ Winter conditions continue and the Streets crew has been busy dealing with snow and ice on local streets. Gravel road surfaces are soft and unfrozen, resulting in lots of potholes and difficulty plowing. The crew has been working to fill as many potholes as possible, but conditions are not right for grading. Once spring conditions arrive, we will be able to reshape some of the roads that have taken a beating lately.
- ❖ A Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting was held last week to discuss COVID-19. The committee is made up of representatives from various stakeholders in the community. The Public Health Nurse and Emergency Manager from the hospital provided information on what is known about the virus, protective measures, testing capabilities, etc. Businesses gave a rundown on their plans to continue operation should we have an outbreak in Petersburg.
- ❖ Thank you PFI, TU, and H&W for providing the Community Breakfast in honor of the Fire Dept and thank you to the people who attended and made donations.
- ❖ US Masters Swim has been underway since Feb 25th with great attendance and excitement. Facilitator, Scott Burt, has completed his US Masters Swim Levels 1 & 2 Coach Certification.
- ❖ Other Parks & Rec. happenings; Completed Babysitters Training in February for Girl Scout Troop 4065, Wrapped up a great volleyball season with Coach Cabral and Coach Chrystine Lynn, Extended Open Gym and Open Swim time for Spring Break, and are working with the Alpine Club to look into reopening the Rock Wall.
- ❖ Alaska DNR is proposing a regulation to revise the definition of "navigable waters" for the purpose of state land leases or conveyances. According to DNR, this revision will narrow the definition of "navigable waters" and allow the Agency to once again lease/convey beds of inland waters that are determined to not be navigable in fact...Anyway, it is as confusing as it sounds so working on determining how it affects the borough's municipal land selections.
- ❖ TravelWeekly Alaska published a nice feature story on visiting Petersburg and Wrangell.
- ❖ The Petersburg Community Foundation's 2020 grant program is accepting applications from area nonprofits. Up to \$25,000 is available, with individual grants up to \$10,000 awarded. Deadline to apply is April 1, 2020. Visit petersburgcf.org for more information.